

REMARKS

The Office Action dated January 13, 2005 has been received and carefully reviewed. The preceding amendments and the following remarks form a full and complete response thereto. Claims 1, 8 and 10 are amended. Claims 12 and 13 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-11 are pending in the application and submitted for reconsideration.

Claims 3-7, 9 and 11 are allowed.

An objection was made in the Office Action to Fig. 1. However, in the Applicants' previous response dated November 4, 2004, the Applicants submitted a corrected Fig. 1 have the PRIOR ART label added thereto, and thus, resolved the current objection. Attached is a copy of the response dated November 4, 2004. Accordingly, the Applicants request that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-2 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,228,374 to Elsel. Claims 1-2 and 8 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,082,967 to Laskaris. Claims 1-2 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,482,919 to Joshi.


Claims 12-13 were found to contain allowable subject matter. Claims 1 (upon which claim 2 depends), 8 and 10 were amended to include the limitations of claims 12-13. Thus, the Applicants submit that claims 1-2, 8 and 10 should now be allowable. Accordingly, the Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn and claims 1-11 be

allowed.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account No. 02-2135.

Respectfully submitted,


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